

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

1. (Currently amended) A method for improving service accounting in a network, the method comprising the steps of:  
~~in an authentication, authorization, and accounting server;~~  
~~authenticating and authorizing a client;~~  
in response to a first authentication, authorization, and accounting server receiving a request to authenticate[[ing]] and authorize[[ing]] a the client, said first server obtaining an accounting record for the client and said first server sending an authorization accept message that includes the an accounting record within the message;  
causing the accounting record to be logged; and  
a second authentication, authorization, and accounting server receiving, subsequent to the sending, a start session message that includes the accounting record.
2. (Original) A method as recited in Claim 1, further comprising the step of obtaining the accounting record for the client from an external resource.
3. (Original) A method as recited in Claim 2, further comprising the step of obtaining the accounting record for the client from a Lightweight Directory Access Protocol directory.
4. (Original) A method as recited in Claim 1, wherein the client is selected from the group consisting of a wireless network client, a wired network client, and a dial up client.
5. (Original) A method as recited in Claim 1, wherein the step of causing to be logged comprises causing the accounting record to be logged on a dedicated logging device.
6. (Original) A method as recited in Claim 1, wherein the step of causing to be logged comprises causing the accounting record to be logged on an authentication, authorization, and accounting server.

7. (Original) A method as recited in Claim 1, wherein the step of causing to be logged comprises causing the accounting record to be logged on a network device.
8. (Original) A method as recited in Claim 1, wherein the step of causing to be logged comprises logging the accounting record with a session start log entry.
9. (Original) A method as recited in Claim 1, wherein the step of causing to be logged comprises logging the accounting record with a session stop log entry.
10. (Original) A method as recited in Claim 1, wherein the accounting record comprises a handle to a second accounting record.
11. (Original) A method as recited in Claim 10, further comprising the steps of:  
retrieving the second accounting record using the handle to the second accounting record;  
and  
causing the second accounting record to be logged.
12. (Original) A method as recited in Claim 1, wherein the accounting record comprises data in a plurality of attribute-value pairs.
13. (Currently amended) A method as recited in Claim 1, wherein the step of said first server sending an authorization accept message that includes the accounting record and the step of said second server receiving a start session message that includes the accounting record ~~are~~ is-performed in a protocol selected from the group consisting of Remote Authentication Dial In User Service, Terminal Access Controller Access Control System, Diameter, and Security Assertion Markup Language.
14. (Original) A method as recited in Claim 1, wherein a particular data set is used in the step of authenticating and authorizing and the accounting record comprises said particular data set.

15. (Currently amended) A method for improving service accounting in a network, the method comprising the steps of:  
~~in a client of an authentication, authorization, and accounting server:~~  
in response to a client sending an authentication and authorization request to a first authentication, authorization, and accounting server,[[;]] receiving, from said first server, an accounting record in an authorization accept message;  
causing the accounting record to be logged; and  
the client sending to a second authentication, authorization, and accounting server, subsequent to sending the authorization request, a start session message that includes the accounting record.
16. (Original) A method as recited in Claim 15, wherein the step of causing to be logged comprises causing the accounting record to be logged on a dedicated logging device.
17. (Original) A method as recited in Claim 15, wherein the step of causing to be logged comprises causing the accounting record to be logged on an authentication, authorization, and accounting server.
18. (Previously Presented) A computer-readable storage medium storing one or more sequences of instructions which, when executed by one or more processors, causes the one or more processors to perform the method recited in Claim 1.
19. (Previously Presented) A computer-readable storage medium storing one or more sequences of instructions which, when executed by one or more processors, causes the one or more processors to perform the method recited in Claim 2.
20. (Previously Presented) A computer-readable storage medium storing one or more sequences of instructions which, when executed by one or more processors, causes the one or more processors to perform the method recited in Claim 3.

21. (Previously Presented) A computer-readable storage medium storing one or more sequences of instructions which, when executed by one or more processors, causes the one or more processors to perform the method recited in Claim 4.
22. (Previously Presented) A computer-readable storage medium storing one or more sequences of instructions which, when executed by one or more processors, causes the one or more processors to perform the method recited in Claim 5.
23. (Previously Presented) A computer-readable storage medium storing one or more sequences of instructions which, when executed by one or more processors, causes the one or more processors to perform the method recited in Claim 6.
24. (Previously Presented) A computer-readable storage medium storing one or more sequences of instructions which, when executed by one or more processors, causes the one or more processors to perform the method recited in Claim 7.
25. (Previously Presented) A computer-readable storage medium storing one or more sequences of instructions which, when executed by one or more processors, causes the one or more processors to perform the method recited in Claim 8.
26. (Previously Presented) A computer-readable storage medium storing one or more sequences of instructions which, when executed by one or more processors, causes the one or more processors to perform the method recited in Claim 9.
27. (Previously Presented) A computer-readable storage medium storing one or more sequences of instructions which, when executed by one or more processors, causes the one or more processors to perform the method recited in Claim 10.
28. (Previously Presented) A computer-readable storage medium storing one or more sequences of instructions which, when executed by one or more processors, causes the one or more processors to perform the method recited in Claim 11.

29. (Previously Presented) A computer-readable storage medium storing one or more sequences of instructions which, when executed by one or more processors, causes the one or more processors to perform the method recited in Claim 12.
30. (Previously Presented) A computer-readable storage medium storing one or more sequences of instructions which, when executed by one or more processors, causes the one or more processors to perform the method recited in Claim 13.
31. (Previously Presented) A computer-readable storage medium storing one or more sequences of instructions which, when executed by one or more processors, causes the one or more processors to perform the method recited in Claim 14.
32. (Previously Presented) A computer-readable storage medium storing one or more sequences of instructions which, when executed by one or more processors, causes the one or more processors to perform the method recited in Claim 15.
33. (Previously Presented) A computer-readable storage medium storing one or more sequences of instructions which, when executed by one or more processors, causes the one or more processors to perform the method recited in Claim 16.
34. (Previously Presented) A computer-readable storage medium storing one or more sequences of instructions which, when executed by one or more processors, causes the one or more processors to perform the method recited in Claim 17.
35. (Previously Presented) A method as recited in Claim 1, wherein the causing the accounting record to be logged is performed in response to the receiving; and wherein the authorization accept message and the start session message conform to the Remote Authentication Dial In User Service (RADIUS) protocol.

36. (Previously Presented) A method as recited in Claim 15, wherein the authorization accept message and the start session message conform to the Remote Authentication Dial In User Service (RADIUS) protocol.
37. (New) A method as recited in Claim 1, wherein said first server and said second server are the same authentication, authorization, and accounting server.
38. (New) A method as recited in Claim 1, wherein said first server and said second server are different load balanced servers.
39. (New) A computer-readable storage medium storing one or more sequences of instructions which, when executed by one or more processors, causes the one or more processors to perform the method recited in Claim 35.
40. (New) A computer-readable storage medium storing one or more sequences of instructions which, when executed by one or more processors, causes the one or more processors to perform the method recited in Claim 36.
41. (New) A computer-readable storage medium storing one or more sequences of instructions which, when executed by one or more processors, causes the one or more processors to perform the method recited in Claim 37.
42. (New) A computer-readable storage medium storing one or more sequences of instructions which, when executed by one or more processors, causes the one or more processors to perform the method recited in Claim 38.